

Genesis 19

What is significant about Lot sitting in the gateway of the city (v. 1)? He had become entrenched in Sodom's politics—the governing council of elders sat at the gate. He was fully integrated into the culture. He was now a Sodomite. He wasn't just a spectator any longer.

Application: Lot made a lot of mistakes that we can learn from. There's probably a little bit of Lot in all of us. We sometimes want the best of both worlds. We want to be liked by them, dress like them, be cool. We want to walk with one foot in the secular world and one foot in our Christian world just like Lot.

How do you deal with the pull of the world? It's a matter of the heart. Ask God to show you what areas of your life look like Lot's life. The lure of the world cannot be successfully dealt with in our own strength. We must live our lives in close harmony with the Holy Spirit.

Why did Lot not want the visitors to go to the square (v. 3)? Perhaps a hospitality issue. But most likely he also knew the dangers of the square. In any other city, sleeping in the city square would not have been unusual or unwise.

A bunch of men surrounded the house (v. 4). What specific sin is in view here? Rampant homosexuality.

Consider Sodom's sins described in Ezekiel 16:49-50: *"Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore, I did away with them as you have seen."* Their sins included pride, gluttony, apathy, and idleness, as well as homosexuality.

What is God's attitude toward homosexuality? He condemns it. It is not just an alternative lifestyle.

- *"If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads" (Leviticus 20:13).*
- *"Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9b-10).*

What should be our attitude toward homosexuals? They are sinners in need of a savior, just like any lost person. We need to get past our bias and share the Good News of the Gospel with them -- without approving of their lifestyle.

What does Lot's response tell you about him (v. 8)? He was not a man of character. Hospitality was more sacred than sexual morality to Lot. He was a crowd pleaser. He was concerned about his reputation among the Sodomites. It is outrageous to even think that any father could offer his virgin daughters to a crowd like this.

What was the attitude of the men of the city toward Lot (v. 9)? Contemptuous and judgmental. They considered him an outsider. He may have been sitting with them at the gate, but he wasn't truly one of them.

The sons-in-law did not take Lot seriously. They thought he was joking (v. 14). What does their response say about their relationship with Lot? They didn't trust or respect him. He had no credibility or reputation for being different in any way. What a rebuke to the witness of Lot.

Note: In the final analysis Lot was literally dragged from the city by the angels. His heart was truly in Sodom.

Application: **In the midst of a crisis—family, career, neighborhood, etc.—will we have a testimony? Will we be known for being different in any way?** The groundwork has to be laid long before the crisis strikes.

Was Lot a true believer? Yes he was. 2 Peter 2:7-8: *"....He (God) rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)."* Lot's salvation was not based on his worthiness or performance. It was based on a relationship of grace initiated by God. Lot's salvation was clearly in spite of himself, not because of his works.

Lot still had to deal with the consequences of his sin which were significant. What did Lot end up losing? His testimony, wife, sons-in-law, friends, property, character, and life's work.

How would you describe God's judgment (vv. 24-26)? Burning sulphur raining down from heaven – a supernatural judgment. Not a volcano erupting or some other worldly explanation.

Why did God save Lot from this destruction? Lot was saved, not for his own sake, but for Abraham's (v. 29).

What was Abraham's attitude toward Lot? Abraham never was harsh on Lot, never judged him, he loved him unconditionally.

Application: Just like Lot, we have to live in the world. **What are some practical ways we can best co-exist and have credibility with the people of this world? How can we be salt and light to a dying world?** Don't be surprised or get angered by their sin, but show them you care with....no underlying agenda. Be real/genuine. Look for interests you have in common as a way to initiate a relationship.

How would you describe Lot's daughters and his relationship with them (vv. 31-36)? There is a striking absence of trust, respect and love between them.

Why did the daughters lie with Lot (v. 32)? To preserve the family line. This is a classic example of situational ethics—Lot's daughters seducing their father. In their eyes the end justified the means. Situational ethics often boils down to a failure to believe in the sovereignty of God.

Note: Someone described this as the rebirth of Sodom in a cave.

What was the end result of this incestuous encounter? Moabites and Ammonites -- perennial enemies of Israel.

Does it remind you of anyone else who else took matters in their own hands to provide an heir? Sarah—with Hagar

Application: **What lessons does the Lord want us to learn from this scenario?** Message from God: "I don't need help sovereignly ruling over your life. Trust in me. Don't try to manipulate the people or events of your world. I don't need your help or interference getting you where I want you." Lot attempted to live his life in a city and then moved to a cave. We cannot become one with the world, but neither are we to flee from it.

Are there any similarities between Sodom and our society today? The similarities between Sodom and our society today are distressing. Immorality and perversion are rampant in both. Homosexuality is always considered to be sin in the Bible—not an alternative lifestyle.

Application: The story of Lot and his family should provide a sobering reminder that all of our decisions are significant, especially that of who we hang out with. Our moral environment significantly influences our lives. The New Testament constantly implores the believer to fellowship with those of like precious faith.

- *"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'" (1 Corinthians 15:33).*
- *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common" (2 Corinthians 6:14a)?*
- *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:15-17).*

Nagging Question: **After being rescued by the angels, why didn't Lot see the error of his ways and go back to Abraham?** With Abraham he would have been welcomed, there could have been fellowship, encouragement, and perhaps the possibility of some God-fearing husbands for his daughters.